



MAHA Express

September/October 2012



President's Letter

October 2012

Hello MAHA Members,

The US Nationals is behind us and I hope you were able to attend the show or had an opportunity to watch some of the classes on line. There were some great horses and beautiful performances. If you missed it, it was a fun and exciting show and, in my opinion, the best we have had in a long time! The competition was fierce and the camaraderie and positive energy were great. **Congratulations to all our MAHA trainers, owners, and exhibitors that supported this show.** Once again, our membership brought home many National Championships, Top Tens and Finalist ribbons. I am proud to be a part of our MAHA club and you should be too.

Speaking of MAHA... the **MAHA Fall Classic Horse Show** held in mid-September was once again a huge success! Our participation numbers were up and so were the number of rides per horse. We had most of our classes sponsored and our Patron numbers were up too. I do not have the final financials yet, but I know we did not lose any money on the show. The free dinner fed over 200 people, and the clinic had some great participants. A big thank you to **Katie Niemeyer** and **Miriam McGurran** for their Zumba® and line dancing lessons, as well as **Teresa & Donnie LeFever** for providing the campfire and refreshments.

The **MAHA Fall Trail Ride** was another fun time, if you did not attend it this year; I hope you will come next year. I have agreed to make it an annual event at **Conway Arabians**; the terrain is hilly with several water crossings, but all the horses cooperated and everyone enjoyed the day. I look forward to doing it again in 2013. MAHA is trying to incorporate activities for everybody, so if you have a suggestion, please let us know.

The **AHA Convention** is coming up November 14-17 in Denver. [MAHA can send six delegates; however, we only have five going right now. If you would like to attend this great event, please let me know ASAP.](#)

We need to start planning our **January 27 Year-end Awards Meeting at Cedar Ridge Arabians** and are [looking for suggestions for a clinician.](#) I would love to hear who you would like to have this year. Please email or call me, but we need to get this booked soon. ☺

Everyone have a good day, and enjoy your Arabian horse!

Sincerely,

Lori Conway



Membership Report

By Lisa A. Lewis

MAHA has established the Adult 3 Year Membership option to have continuity with AHA's membership offerings plus make it convenient & easy for members to join with/renew their MAHA affiliated membership on line via the AHA website, at a cost savings to members.

MAHA appreciates your continued support, THANK YOU!

Here are the numbers as of 10/26/12:

- Grand Total: 360
- Adult 1 Yr: 254 members
- Adult 3 Yr: 7 members
- Lifetime: 12 members
- Youth 1 Yr: 87 members

Please feel free to contact me with any membership questions: llewis@peoplenetonline.com 952-461-3048



MAHA Fall Classic Report September 15 & 16

By Lori Conway

Overall, the entire weekend was a resounding success and was a great way to wrap up our MAHA show season.

The show's Patron, Corporate and Class Sponsors are listed here for recognition as they are vital to the show's continued success.

Patrons:

Cedar Ridge Arabians, Inc.; Conway Arabians, Inc.; Eleanor's Arabian Farm; Hesten Park; LeFever Training Centre; McConaughy Training Centre; P & H Horse & Cattle Co.; Sarah Paripovich Training; St. Croix Training Center; Westridge Farm LLC

Corporate Sponsors:

Bowman Ag Trade LLC

Donut, Candy & Water Sponsors:

O'Brien & Wolf Law Firm; Hesten Park; Conway Arabians, Inc; and Freedom Value Center

Numerous individual class sponsors: Too many to thank individually. ☺

We had classes many classes that had over 16 horses in them. We had 468 class entries for the show, up 54 entries from the 414 in 2011!

Big thanks **Miriam McGurran** for running the ribbons and managing the hospitality table with the help every now and then. The gate was managed by **Forest Nutter** on Saturday and on Sunday by **Janet Macdonald**.

MAHA Fall Classic Report continued...

Always willing to lend a hand, the Half-Arabian mare classes were added to the show schedule so a horse/handler that needed the qualification could get enough points for US Nationals. We were able to round up three reining horses and a 16-year-old youth mare, in addition to the already entered halter horses to enable this exhibitor to get their points. The crowd was entertained, the ring crew had a great time, and **Eleanor's Arabians** and **Tom Kafka** received their first halter ribbons. ☺

Saturday night, MAHA put on a free dinner & clinic then folks got their heart rates up with Zumba® & line dancing demonstrations.





MAHA @ Canadian Nationals August 13-18

MAHA members did us proud when they crossed the border to compete in Brandon, Manitoba at Canadian Nationals. Here is a sampling collage of the fun!





MAHA's October Trail Ride

By Pat Swenson

Our sunny October Sunday afternoon trail ride was held at Conway Arabians near Chatfield, MN. Before heading out on the trail we warmed up our horses in the indoor arena and Peter Conway took a group picture. Our ride lasted about two hours, I wasn't really keeping track, just enjoying the ride, as we rode through and around the hilly pastures. Young horses ran along the fence line to greet us and see what was going on. At our first water crossing most of our horses splashed across showing the way for the hesitant ones. By the end of our ride and numerous shallow water crossings, all horses were confident about crossing water. At some point in the ride we broke into a couple of groups, as we had choices of directions and terrain. The pastures were hilly and gave our horses a good hind end workout if we insisted they walk up hill. After the ride soup and chili in crock pots warmed everyone up. Thank you, Conway Arabians, it was a luxury to have a lounge to talk, relax and eat in before and after our ride. We had a great group of horse and riders on this cool, beautiful fall day, and gorgeous trail! **If you have any suggestions for our 2013 rides, please contact me**, phone: 507-645-9223 or email: swens@earthlink.net



Minnesota Horse Council News

By Miriam E. McGurran, MNHC Liaison

The Minnesota Horse Council is a membership-based organization that works to support the state's horse industry through education, funding, communication and promotion of horse-related activities. Its programs include the [Minnesota Horse Expo](#), [scholarship awards](#), and the new web-based [Minnesota Horsemen's Directory](#), which is a comprehensive listing of horse-related businesses and organizations. Please visit its website for more information: <http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org/>



Brief Bits © Horse & Highways

By Rebecca Bell

As a horse owner, if you live near a busy road, you have probably worried or at least thought about your horse getting loose on the highway. Any time a horse is loose on or near a road it is a bad proposition, as the freedom and fear factors can play big parts in this scenario. Horses *never* get loose at a convenient time, like a bright sunny afternoon when you've got time to burn, standing there with a bucket of grain and a lead rope.

When a loose horse and a vehicle collide the legal issues begin. In general, the owner of the horse is responsible (liable) for:

- the cost of any damage caused to the vehicle that hit the horse (civil liability)
- any injuries sustained by the driver or passenger(s) (civil liability)
- and, the police may write a citation on the horse owner (criminal liability).

Depending on the circumstances, boarding facilities, training farms, the fence manufacturer and/or installers, even neighborhood vandals who thought unlocking a gate would be funny, can also be legally liable.

The simple fact is as the owner of a loose horse, you can be sued.

Case Law & Statutes

In *Pigman v. Nott*, (305 Minn.512, 233 N.W.2d 287) the issue before the Supreme Court of Minnesota was whether circumstantial evidence was sufficient to support the finding that no proof of specific acts of negligence or the propensity of the animal to do things which caused the damage was necessary.

Simply put, the court ruled that although there was no proof that the horse ever previously escaped his paddock, the owner was still liable. There was no proof that the owner had been negligent in his fencing of the horses, yet the owner was still liable. However, let's say there was a defective or incorrectly installed latch on the gate and you had reported it to the fence company—who would be liable? The owner would still be liable and *possibly* the fence manufacturer/installer, because they were made aware of the problem.

In a 1994 California case, a horse facility faced manslaughter charges after a horse escaped and hit and killed a motorist. In this case, and under California laws, the court proved the facility had sub-standard fencing and its horses had a history of getting loose.

Minnesota Statutes Section 346.16 refers to animals "running at large." It states, "It shall be unlawful for any owner or any person having the control of any such animal to permit the same to run at large in the state." If your horse has a tendency to always get loose and you don't take care of it—the statute goes on to say that "treble damages sustained by the aggrieved person, to be recovered in a civil action brought for that purpose." That means being complacent about whether or not your horse gets loose can cost you three times in damages as a penalty to you. So for your sake, get out there and fix your fencing.

Under Minnesota Law Section 516.9, you can also be liable for trespass. This means that if your horse gets out and damages someone's property or crops you are liable in court for any and all damages done by your loose horse.

There are always defenses that can be raised; however I wouldn't count on these in lieu of a strong paddock fence and a vigilant eye. Defenses such as: the horses were adequately restrained and there was no negligence; vandals or another party damaged or tampered with the fence, which allowed the horse to escape; or they [the injured party] should be suing the facility not the owner, as the owner had no control over how the horse was fenced. These can be offered, but not necessarily accepted as proof (see *Pigman* above).

Brief Bits continued...

Avoiding Liability

Be sure your fencing complies with state law and local ordinances. In *Indendi v. Workman*, a 1995 Montana Supreme Court case, it was found the horse owner did not have a “legal fence” as defined under Montana Statute because the farm was using a two wire fence which did not meet local legal requirements. This case was complicated by the fact that Montana is an “Open Range” state where livestock are a significant part of the economy and many animals in rural areas are not fenced at all. This allows those particular states (Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming) a certain amount of flexibility for wandering animals unavailable in Minnesota and most other states.

Make it part of your routine to inspect fences and don't let them fall into disrepair. If your fence line runs through a wetland be sure that fence posts have not been pushed over or in a dry year that the horses can simply walk through the area that in wetter conditions is an unfenced lake. Do regular checks of your latches, make note of dates and keep notes about your repairs in a notebook.

Insurance

The correct insurance coverage for your farm and horse will protect the horse owner and facility. Talk to your agent, ask specifically about this type of coverage; whether it is included in your policy or can be added. If you have uninsured motorist coverage or an umbrella policy, be sure those extend cover in this situation as well.

Remember the cliché “don't wait to lock the door after the horse gets out,” and be proactive in protecting your horse and your farm. Choose to be ahead of the curve knowing it is well worth your time and effort to do regular fence and gate inspections and to keep records of your timely repairs. Take the initiative in continuing to be a responsible horse owner, knowing that you are doing everything possible to keep your horse from getting loose. When it's horse versus vehicle, you have more than your horse to lose.

This article does not constitute legal advice. If you have questions based on your specific situation, please direct them to your attorney.

Becky Bell RB Legal, LLC rebecca@rblegalmn.com 952-473-1212



Mark Your 2012 & 2013 Calendars!

2012

Saturday, November 10 — Arabians Unplugged Banquet, Pizza Ranch, Shakopee, 1-4 pm
November — MAHA Board Voting. Stay tuned for details

2013

Sunday, January 27 — Annual Year-end Awards Banquet & Clinic, Cedar Ridge Arabians, Jordan
Friday-Sunday, March 29, 30 & 31 — Spring Fling, MN Equestrian Center, Winona
Friday-Sunday, April 26, 27 & 28 — MAHA at [Minnesota Horse Expo](#), MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul
Friday, May 3 — Region 10 Mary Anne Grimmell Scholarship (postmarked) Deadline
Friday-Sunday, May 3, 4 & 5 — [Sahara Sands](#), Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul



MINNESOTA ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP FORM

DATE: _____ [] NEW MEMBER [] RENEWING MEMBER
AHA# _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____
NAME: _____
FARM NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADULT MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

_____ \$80.00 – 1 YEAR AHA/Affiliate/MAHA Voting Membership WITH a COMPETITION CARD
_____ \$45.00 – 1 YEAR AHA/Affiliate/MAHA Voting Membership NO COMPETITION CARD
_____ \$20.00 – 1 YEAR MAHA Associate NO Voting/NO AHA Membership/NO Competition Card
_____ + \$10.00 – 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO AHA's *MODERN Arabian Horse* magazine

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (17 years or younger as of December 1st)

_____ \$45.00 – 1 YEAR AHA/Affiliate MAHA Voting Membership WITH a COMPETITION CARD
_____ \$20.00 – 1 YEAR MAHA Associate WITH voting rights – NO AHA/NO Competition Card
_____ + \$10.00 – 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO AHA's *MODERN Arabian Horse* magazine

*All MAHA Memberships include the *MAHA Express* newsletter and WSCA Membership. If you have not been on the WSCA membership list in the past, you MUST provide name, address, phone and date of birth NO LATER than May 15th to LauraMickelson@aol.com or 651-423-5871. For any WSCA information, please contact Laura.

*Online Membership is available at www.arabianhorses.org. Designate **club #10063** MN Arabian Horse Association or visit our website at www.mnarabhorse.com to download a membership form.

* For more MAHA Information, please contact: Lori@ConwayArabians.com or 507-867-2981

MAHA is an organization operated entirely by volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated in any capacity. We want to know about you, what MAHA can do for you, and where you could help us. **Please circle what your interests are:**

* Trail/Competitive Riding * Local Horse Show Competitions (4-H, WSCA, etc.) * Class A Shows

* Attending Clinics * Regional and/or National Shows * MN Horse Expo * Membership

* Horse Show Management and/or Involvement (e.g., Ribbons, Announcing, Gate, Barn Manager)

* Promotions and/or Club Publications * Other: _____

* **Circle all that apply:** Owner * Trainer * Amateur * Parent * Youth * Non-Owner

Do you want to be contacted to volunteer? YES or NO

Please make checks payable to MAHA and mail to: * Lisa A. Lewis * 25230 Hadley Ave, Elko, MN 55020 *
Telephone: 952-461-3048 * Email: LLewis@peoplenetonline.com

THANK YOU FOR JOINING MAHA - THE CLUB THAT "GIVES BACK!"